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1972/04/07

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Authority E.O. 12958
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Thieu asks the Pres. for more help in improving ARVN + especially VNAF

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Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

O 071051Z APR 72
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6820
BT
S E C R E T SAIGON 4864

0 0 1 4 2 6 0
April 7, 1972
7:11 a.m.

NODIS

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT NIXON FROM PRESIDENT THIEU.

REF: STATE 058692

1. PRESIDENT THIEU HAS ASKED ME TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE OF APRIL 6, TRANSMITTED TO ME BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER, AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE AND THE ASSURANCES OF FULLEST SUPPORT WHICH, AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, YOU GAVE TO ME AT THIS CRITICAL TIME WHEN THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM FACES HANOI'S CRUDE INVASION.

AS HANOI UNABASHEDLY VIOLATES THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORDS AND THE 1968 TACIT AGREEMENTS WHICH LED TO THE CESSATION OF BOMBARDMENTS OF NORTH VIET-NAM, IT IS COMFORTING FOR US TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT HESITATE TO TAKE WHATEVER ADDED MILITARY STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE, AND THAT HANOI'S INTENSIFIED AND BLATANT AGGRESSION CANNOT BEALLOWED TO GO UNPUNISHED.

AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND GENERAL ABRAMS HAVE KEPT ME INFORMED ON THE STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, AS WELL AS OTHERS WHICH WILL BE UNDERTAKEN, RELATING TO THE INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND NAVY, IN ORDER TO STOP THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS, AND TO PUNISH THEM ABOVE THE DEMARCATION LINE THEY HAVE OUTRAGEOUSLY VIOLATED.

4/9/72
Advised Dave Evans in advance at 12:00 pm to transmit to K.B. He said he would do so immediately
MEL

SECRET

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TELEGRAM

Saigon MRN 4864

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE IS THE BEGINNING OF A SUPREME EFFORT MADE BY HANOI BEFORE IT WOULD DECIDE EITHER TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OR TO FADE AWAY. THEREFORE IT IS LIKELY TO LAST THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR, WHICH IS THE ELECTORAL YEAR IN THE THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL PROBABLY INCREASE IN TEMPO AND SPREAD TO OTHER MILITARY REGIONS, ASIDE FROM MILITARY REGION 1 WHICH IS NOW UNDER VERY HEAVY ATTACKS BY ENEMY FORCES EQUIVALENT IN STRENGTH TO FIVE DIVISIONS, USING VERY SOPHISTICATED MODERN WEAPONS INCLUDING RANGE ARTILLERY, SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES, TANKS, AND POSSIBLY ALSO MIG PLANES AT A LATER STAGE.

THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES AND THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO REPEL THE AGGRESSORS. WE HAVE THE NECESSARY MANPOWER AND THE DETERMINATION TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENTS OF THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS, AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUPREME TEST, WE GREATLY NEED INCREASED AND ACCELERATED HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES IN THE MODERNIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM IN PARTICULAR OF THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT, WITH UNITED STATES HELP, WE SHALL SUCCESSFULLY MEET THIS GREAT CHALLENGE, IN A CRUCIAL YEAR, TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN FREEDOM AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF ARDUOUS STRUGGLE AND SO MANY COMMON SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR TWO NATIONS IN OPPOSING COMMUNIST AGGRESSION.

TO BRING ABOUT THIS HAPPY RESULT, I FEEL THAT IT IS MOST NECESSARY FOR US TO RECEIVE FULL AND TIMELY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES, FOR WHICH WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

SINCERELY,
SIGNED NGUYEN VAN THIEU
END TEXT.
3. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

BUNKER

BT

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